

The 13 000 bodies providing CAMHS spend £100 billion (sic) of public money annually in England and Wales. The Commission's team of seven have met with external advisers with a view to shaping of the audit, its comments, and guidance. The aim is to achieve economy with efficiency and effectiveness. The report is in five chapters and five helpful appendices. It lists 71 references and has an index.

Under the heading "The changing context" it is revealed that one in five children and adolescents (alas, not defined for females and males) suffer from a wide range of mental health problems of variable degrees of severity from social ineptitude through psychological to severe psychiatric disorder. Strong links are noted with juvenile crime, alcohol and drug abuse, eating disorders, and of course self harm.

The key components of the CAMHS are viewed as four "tiers": (a) Those providing primary intervention, eg, GPs, health visitors, residential social workers, juvenile justice workers, school nurses, and teachers. (b) Professional providers of services, eg, clinical and educational psychologists, paediatricians, child psychiatric nurses in the community, and child psychiatrists. (c) High grade specialist services for severe, complex and persistent disorders, eg, child psychiatrists, community psychiatric nurses, psychotherapists, occupational therapists and art, music, and drama therapists. (d) Consists of hospital services especially unnamed "highly specialised outpatient teams". This clearly applies to accident and emergency departments, obstetric and gynaecology departments, and genitourinary medicine departments. These deal very adequately with self poisoning episodes, premarital abortions, and sexually acquired infection, but fail to see the underlying behaviour as but one manifestation of an ongoing complex of medicosocial pathology. Clearly, services for the care of our adolescents, unlike paediatrics and geriatrics, are seriously fractionated.

What follows should help the holistically minded hospital doctor to increase his awareness and skills and so make more regular and early use of referral routes and emergency cover arrangements provided by developing CAMHS.

It is clear that in many areas there is an urgent need to plan how best to meet unmet needs, including appropriate monitoring. The final chapter of this book purports to show how, with national support, highly active local coordination can establish and advance improvements. Recommendations are provided. There are opportunities for masterly leadership.

As the first specialty to be nationalised in the United Kingdom, genitourinary medicine has come a long way from the days of "pox doctoring" in "clap clinics". Has the time come for it to give a lead in the development of more appropriate and comprehensive services for adolescents?

For the long sighted and adventurous GU physician this book suggests how to begin.

R S MORTON

Laboratory Diagnosis of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Pp 135 (available in English, French, and Spanish); Sw fr 35/\$31.50, in developing countries Sw fr 24.50. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1999. ISBN 92 4 154501 1.

"Venereal diseases are like the fine arts—it is pointless to ask who invented them." (Voltaire, *Dictionnaire philosophique*).

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) now rank among the top ten diseases for which adults in developing countries seek health care. The economic burden of STDs on both developed and developing countries is enormous. Infection with conventional STDs is a risk factor for transmission of infection with HIV, and therefore for the development and spread of the AIDS.

It is imperative that laboratory services are available to guide the clinician to the correct diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, and to give an accurate epidemiological picture of their prevalence in a particular community in order to target relevant populations and ensure optimal and economic use of available resources. Yet, the availability of both funds and technology varies widely between different settings.

This manual sets out to give comprehensive guidance on tests available and applicable to the level of expertise and funding available.

Nine chapters cover the major STDs, encompassing bacterial and viral infections, and under the umbrella of vaginitis in adults; trichomoniasis, candidiasis, and bacterial vaginosis. Each chapter begins with a brief description of the microbiology of the infective agent and the clinical spectrum of disease. The detail given is not consistent, being comprehensive for chancroid and granuloma inguinale, and surprisingly brief for HIV and chlamydia by way of contrast. Then follows a description of collection and transport requirements, and of techniques for diagnosis. The emphasis is on tests that are possible in a reasonably well equipped laboratory, but not one capable of reference facilities. Tests that are suitable for use in the field are highlighted. An evaluation of sensitivity and specificity is also given. Other tests available in central or reference laboratories are mentioned in brief, usually with supporting references.

Two annexes cover media, reagents and stains, and details of equipment required to diagnose each condition. A third annex is an interesting table of which tests should be available at "peripheral," "intermediate," and "central" laboratories.

Overall, this manual is to be welcomed as an educational and reference source for medical microbiologists, technologists, and clinicians. However, I would recommend that the authors "road test" the manual to discover omissions in technical detail that would prevent the sole use of the manual in the field.

Indifferent colour reproduction detracts from the quality of the text—for example, blue reactions appearing as red in the figure.

For the next edition, a chapter on basic microscopical techniques and another on the general principles and interpretation of laboratory tests would provide useful introductions to an otherwise excellent publication.

GEOFFREY L RIDGWAY

Department of Clinical Microbiology, UCH Accident and Emergency Building, London WC1E 6DB

CD-ROM REVIEWS

Topics in International Health. HIV/AIDS. London: The Wellcome Trust, CAB International, 1998. Institutional licence £120; individual licence £30

This is a superb CD Rom covering various aspects of HIV and AIDS by means of interactive tutorials. It is clear, concise, and up to date and has tutorials under the following headings: Overview, Biology of HIV, Natural history, Infections and malignancies, Epidemiology, Transmission and risk factors, Prevention, Diagnosis and monitoring, Women and children, Management, Social and psychological issues.

Each tutorial is self contained (which does lead to some duplication) and has self assessment questions—usually with click and drag matching of statements or true/false boxes. The information itself is well illustrated and contains animations and a video clip, together with further information/annotations in pop up boxes. At the end of each section there is a set of summary points, a reading list, and further activities such as internet sites.

There is a searchable picture index which allows you to search, view, and save sets of images for reference and lectures (although copyright does apply), and a glossary of terms.

Overall this is an excellent CD Rom providing good information, presented in an attractive and usable way, with a wealth of illustrations. I would strongly recommend it.

SARAH EDWARDS

Department of GU Medicine, West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ

Facing HIV: A Resource for Primary Healthcare. Contributors: Annalisa Rossi, Margaret Allen, Sirrka-Liisa Nurkkala, Begona Gros, Cristina Martinez-Bueno. £29.38. East Lancashire Health Authority, South Lancashire Health Authority, University of Central Lancashire, The Faculty of Health, and The Centre for Learning Technologies at the University of Central Lancashire

This is an interesting CD Rom which, gives a very personal guide to issues surrounding HIV—covering the experience of the patient, carer and healthcare professionals.

Four main sections cover the following areas: Living with HIV, Is HIV different? Loss, grieving and bereavement, Supporting people affected by HIV.

These areas are illustrated by short video clips and backed up by further information. Basic information is given about HIV treatment, the impact of diagnosis and of ill health, and other related topics. Unfortunately the information about drug treatment is already outdated and there is no search facility.

The strength of this CD Rom is the view it gives of the emotional responses to HIV and the strategies for coping with the infection from the viewpoint of those involved. The academic content is limited but it is worth a look for the patient perspectives.

SARAH EDWARDS

Department of GU Medicine, West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ